

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Madam Speaker, recently Dr. Gloria M. Shatto retired as president of Berry College. Dr. Shatto was inaugurated as Berry's sixth president in 1980 and thereby became the first woman to become a president of a college or university in the State of Georgia.

Dr. Shatto's honors include Phi Beta Kappa, the Organization of American States fellowship, the Organization of Women fellowship, and the list goes on and on.

To show its appreciation to Dr. Shatto, Berry College honored her with a "Voice of Berry Lifetime Award." The award is presented annually to a student, faculty, or staff member for communicating effectively to enhance morale, ability to motivate and inspire others, and the willingness to encourage open and free discussion.

Madam Speaker, Berry College is consistently recognized as one of the outstanding small comprehensive colleges in the South. Berry offers work experience as part of every student's development. Approximately 90 percent of the students are employed on campus in 120 job classifications during an academic year.

Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of Dr. Shatto's outstanding service to Berry College and Berry's outstanding service to our Nation.

COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO LEGISLATION NEEDED

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, this past Saturday marked the 1-year anniversary of the State attorneys general's proposed tobacco settlement. Ironically, this anniversary was also marked by the death of tobacco legislation in this Congress.

Since June 1997, Congress has done nothing to stem the willful and destructive forces of the tobacco industry. Today, more than a year later, all we see is a list of principles from the majority party that protects Big Tobacco and still punishes teens.

By selling out to Big Tobacco, the 105th Congress has failed to act while an astounding 1,095,000 more kids became addicted to this lethal product. During this 1-minute speech, two more children will become addicted to tobacco. This tombstone symbolizes the 1,095,000 children addicted to tobacco just in the last year.

Madam Speaker, if we are serious about reducing teen smoking, we need to pass important and comprehensive legislation and we need to raise the legal purchase price from 18 to 21 years old. Let us not make this paper tombstone turn to stone.

IRS REFORM

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to compliment the House for its vote last week to abolish the Tax Code by 2002. Although it is unlikely that this bill will become law, it is a significant first step in our effort to fundamentally reform the current Internal Revenue Code. If we are ever to reform our tax system, we must focus the debate on how we will change the Tax Code, not if or when.

The existing Tax Code is a complex web of credits, deductions, and revenue rulings which shifts resources and time from productive economic activities to tax compliance. Furthermore, taxpayers with identical incomes often have vastly different tax liabilities.

It is time we in Congress provide the American taxpayer with a Tax Code which promotes economic growth, lessens the burdens of compliance on individuals and small businesses and, most importantly, reestablishes fairness.

Madam Speaker, I look forward today to voting on IRS reform later on this afternoon.

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ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about students. I would like to take a moment to recognize students who epitomize the phrase "patriotism."

This year I had the pleasure of nominating 37 young men and women from the 16th Congressional District of Pennsylvania to the four United States service academies. I am very pleased that 20 of these students were appointed to the academies.

Next week those young men and women will start a journey, 4 years of study at premier institutions of higher learning, followed by active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces. They will not only study academics but prepare themselves militarily and physically for service to the Nation as military officers.

They are living proof of the phrase "duty, honor, country," and they are tomorrow's leaders. Therefore, I would like to join their parents and friends in saluting these students.

ON EDUCATION

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Madam Speaker, last week Congress passed legislation making it easier for parents to save for their children's education. With this in mind, I would like to pose a few questions to the defenders of the education status quo.

Given that most of you have done this for your own children's education, why is it so bad for other parents to do so? Why is giving one's children more educational opportunities a bad thing? If parental choice on education really harms public schools, then does that mean that parents who desire to send their children to private or religious schools should be condemned because they are harming public schools?

What about all of those Members of Congress and public school teachers who send their children to private schools?

Lastly, what do you say to those parents in poor areas with dangerous, dysfunctional schools for their children? Too bad? Tough luck?

America demands and deserves answers to these critical questions.

CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS WILDLAND FIRE INITIATIVE

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, each night on the evening news in our media across this country we see the devastation being caused by forest fires and wildlands fires. Florida is being devastated as we stand here today; Texas, the West, California.

Today at 11:30 in the Rayburn, Room 2216, a bipartisan group of our colleagues will come together and announce a six-part initiative that will deal with the issue of wildlands and forest fires. We will review what actions Members of Congress are taking to enhance the capability to use, in one case, Cold War technology to detect these fires at their inception.

We will talk about resources that this Congress has in fact provided this year and in past years to improve the capability of our local emergency responders to deal with these disasters. I encourage our colleagues to join with us in announcing these initiatives to assist these States during their time of need.

NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I remember the Cuban missile crisis. I remember fallout shelters. I remember the drills we had to do when I was a child to protect us from a nuclear attack.

During the 1950s, America was practicing for what we thought was the inevitable. I do not want our Nation's children to ever experience that. It is time for us to build a national missile defense to protect our children.

The good news is we have the technology to knock missiles right out of